DAVIDSON, HUNTER MANUSCRIPTS SPEECHES

71.2009.085.05695

Speeches Honoring Abraham Lincoln

Hunter Davidson

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71.2009.085.05695

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

Master of the Situation.

A brilliant Editor has recently said that,

"~~THE SPONTANEOUS CREATIVENESS OF A GREAT DEMOCRACY PROVES ITSELF IN THE LEADERS IT PRODUCES~~.

THE VITAL POWERS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE NEVER MORE DRAMATICALLY REVEALED THAN THROUGH THE PERSONALITY OF SUCH A MAN AS PRESIDENT LINCOLN. HE STOOD FOR AND INTERPRETED THAT QUIET BUT MIGHTY BACKGROUND OF POPULAR CONVICTION AND THOUGHTFUL MORAL PURPOSE ON WHICH THE LIFE OF A PROGRESSIVE NATION MUST ULTIMATELY DEPEND.

AFTER A GENERATION OF POLITICAL TURMOIL FOLLOWING THE SECOND WAR WITH ENGLAND, AMERICANS HAD COME AT LAST TO REALIZE THAT GREAT ETHICAL QUESTIONS COULD ONLY BE SOLVED THROUGH LEADERS OF 'ABSOLUTE SELF-DEVOTION, AND RIGID, UNSWERVING CHARACTER."

THE COMING OF LINCOLN, THEREFORE, INTO THE NATIONAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY BECAME ALMOST A PERSONAL THING, FOR WE WERE BLINDLY GROPING FOR ONE WHO COULD TAKE THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT AND ASSUME A LEADERSHIP WHICH MEANT SYMPATHY, WISDOM, PATIENCE, AND DOGGED DETERMINATION TO BECOME MASTER OF THE SITUATION. AND NO ONE CAN NOW SAY THAT THE RIGHT man AT THE RIGHT TIME WAS NOT FOUND TO DO THE RIGHT THING IN THE RIGHT WAY.

BE HE SOUTHERNER, OR BE HE NORTHERNER, THE MAN WITH THE OPEN MIND MUST NOW CONCEDE THAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS THE MAN OF DESTINY, AND THAT ~~THE~~ a certain RED SEA WAS CROSSED UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THIS MODERN MOSES.

IT IS ~~HARD~~ difficult TO SAY ANYTHING NEW ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN BECAUSE HIS NAME AND FAME HAVE BECOME A HOUSE-HOLD WORD THROUGHOUT THIS GREAT LAND. Even the world knows & loves him.

NOW THAT ALL SECTIONAL BAD FEELING IS BEING MELTED IN THE FIRES OF GOOD-WILL AND NATIONAL UNION; NOW THAT WE CAN VIEW WITH JUST PRIDE THE RISING OF A GREAT NATION FROM THE ASHES OF POLITICAL RANCOR AND A CIVIL WAR, WHICH HAS BEEN CALLED "OUR LATE UNPLEASANTNESS," WE ARE IN A BETTER POSITION TO PROPERLY ESTIMATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEN WHO TOOK STRONG HOLD UPON THE PUBLIC MIND, AND HELPED TO GUIDE THE SHIP OF STATE INTO CALMER WATERS.

THIS COUNTRY HAS PRODUCED MANY GREAT MEN; SHE HAS BEEN THE ARENA

IN WHICH SUBLIME PRINCIPLES IN STATESCRAFT HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT, AND SHE IS DESTINED, BY VIRTUE OF HER BRAWN AND BRAIN, TO LEAD THE FUTURE WORLD IN ~~HER PROGRESS~~.

though called a national "melting-pot," may perhaps unguessed.

IT IS UNIVERSALLY CONCEDED THAT, AMONG THE MEN WHO HAVE RISEN UPON THE SHOULDERS OF GREATNESS ON AMERICAN SOIL, NONE HAS TAKEN A HIGHER STAND, AND BEEN LOVED WITH THE ~~SAME~~ wide-spread SPONTANEITY and sincerity AS ABRAHAM LINCOLN. HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TOUCH THE HEART OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE PROFOUNDLY.

AND WHEN WE COME TO CONSIDER THE REASON FOR IT WE FIND THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIS ~~BIGNESS OF SOUL~~ largeness of vision, and sincerity of soul.

IT IS A COMMON THING TO COMPARE LINCOLN WITH WASHINGTON, AND TO SAY THAT, WHILE ONE WAS THE FOUNDER, under God,

THE OTHER WAS THE SAVIOUR OF HIS COUNTRY, at a time when Saviours were dearer, THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT ALL MEN DO NOT AGREE WITH THAT PROPOSITION. WE CAN SAFELY SAY, HOWEVER, THAT A DIVINE POWER WAS WORKING OUT THE DESTINY OF THIS COUNTRY, AND PRODUCED THE RIGHT MEN AT THE RIGHT TIME TO HELP CARRY OUT HIS PLANS. AND I THINK ANY MAN WITH OPEN MIND CAN AGREE THAT, IF MOSES AND DAVID WERE SPECIALLY CHOSEN AND FITTED TO LEAD IN A CRISIS, SO WERE WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN. WHY NOT? IF THERE IS A TIDE IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN THAT LEADS ON TO FORTUNE, IF TAKEN AT THE FLOOD, SO IS THERE A DIVINITY WHICH SHAPES OUR ENDS, ROUGH-HEW THEM HOW WE WILL. AND IF THAT SOCALLED DIVINITY GUIDES THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE CHURCH, HE ALSO

GUIDES THE STATE.

I BELIEVE, with Bishop Berkeley, THAT THE STAR OF EMPIRE TRAVELS WESTWARD. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT, ~~FOR THAT~~ FOR THAT REASON, "AMERICA IS BUT ANOTHER NAME FOR OPPORTUNITY", AND THE OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING AT THE DOOR NOW.

WASHINGTON HAD HIS OPPORTUNITY. HE MET THE HOUR, AND BROUGHT NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE TO A GREAT COUNTRY. HE ROSE TO THE OCCASION, AND BECAME MASTER OF THE SITUATION.

AND WE NOW KNOW THE REASON WHY. LINCOLN HAD HIS OPPORTUNITY, AND, IN A GREAT CRISIS, HE BECAME MASTER OF THE SITUATION. AND THIS IS MY TOPIC IN CONSIDERING THIS GREAT MAN.

IT WERE EASY TO SAY, LINCOLN, THE BELOVED; LINCOLN, THE PATIENT;

LINCOLN, THE MAGNANIMOUS; LINCOLN, THE WISE; LINCOLN, THE FRIEND, AND LINCOLN, THE STATESMAN, BUT I ASK YOUR PATIENCE ~~A MOMENT~~ WHILE I MAKE A FEW OBSERVATIONS UPON A PHASE OF HIS LIFE WHICH IS VITAL TO THE MOMENT, AND WHICH IS SOMETIMES FORGOTTEN, THAT IS:—

LINCOLN, ~~THE~~ MASTER OF THE SITUATION.

IN THE RUSHING LIFE OF MODERN AMERICA THERE IS ONE THING THAT MEETS THE OBSERVER EVERY DAY. IT IS THE FACT THAT BUSINESS IS RISING TO A HIGHER LEVEL, AND THAT NO YOUNG MAN RISES INTO LEADERSHIP UNTIL IT IS FOUND HE HAS BECOME MASTER OF THE SITUATION.

IT IS SAID THAT MUTINIES NEVER OCCUR ABOARD SHIPS WHERE THE CAP-

TAIN IS KNOWN TO HAVE RISEN FROM THE RANKS OF THE SAILORS, AND CAN TELL YOU EVERY DETAIL FROM SPLICING A ROPE TO BOXING THE COMPASS.

YOU REMEMBER THE STORY OF THE "BRITANNIA." SHE "WAS A NOBLE SHIP FULL OF EAGER PASSENGERS, FREIGHTED WITH A RICH CARGO, STEAMING AT FULL SPEED FROM ENGLAND TO AMERICA. TWO-THIRDS OF A PROSPEROUS VOYAGE WAS OVER, AND IN THE MESS THEY WERE BEGINNING TO TALK OF HOME. FORE AND AFT THE SONGS OF GOOD-CHEER AND HEARTY MERRIMENT ROSE FROM DECK TO CABIN.

SUDDENLY A DENSE FOG came SHROUDING THE HORIZON, BUT AS THIS WAS A COMMON OCCURRENCE IN THAT LATITUDE, IT WAS HARDLY NOTICED. THE LADIES WERE LYING ABOUT ON COUCHES; CHIL-

DREN, IN MERRY COMPANIES, WERE TAKING HANDS AND RACING UP AND DOWN THE DECKS- WHEN A QUICK CRY FROM THE LOOKOUT, A RUSH OF OFFICERS AND MEN, AND THE GREAT SHIP WAS GRINDING ON THE LEDGE OF ROCK OFF CAPE RACE! THE ORDER WAS GIVEN, "EVERY ONE ON DECK"! THEY ALL KNEW WHAT THAT MEANT- THE MASTS WERE IN DANGER OF FALLING! HUNDREDS OF PALLID FACES WERE HUDDLED NEAR THE STERN OF THE SHIP WHERE THEY WERE TOLD TO GO AND WAIT.

SUDDENLY THEY HEARD A VOICE IN THE FOG IN THE DIRECTION OF THE WHEEL-HOUSE, RINGING LIKE A CLARION ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE WAVES, AND THE CLASHING SOUNDS ON SHIP-BOARD, AND IT HAD IN IT AN ASSURING, NOT A FEARFUL TONE. AS THE ORDERS CAME DISTINCTLY AND DELIBERATELY

THROUGH THE CAPTAIN'S TRUMPET, TO"SHIFT THE CARGO," TO"BACK HER" TO "KEEP HER STEADY," they FELT SOMEHOW THAT THE COMMANDER UP THERE IN THE THICK MIST ON THE WHEEL-HOUSE KNEW WHAT HE WAS ABOUT, AND THAT THROUGH HIS SKILL AND COURAGE, BY THE BLESSING OF HEAVEN, ALL SHOULD BE RESCUED. AND THE MAN WHO SAVED THAT VESSEL AND ITS PRECIOUS CARGO WAS ONE FULLY COMPETENT TO COMMAND A SHIP, AND WHEN, AFTER WEARY DAYS OF ANXIOUS SUSPENSE, THE VESSEL LEAKING BADLY, AND THE FIRES IN DANGER OF BEING PUT OUT, THEY ARRIVED SAFE IN HALIFAX, OLD MR. CUNARD, AGENT OF THE LINE, HEARING THAT THE BOAT HAD BEEN SAVED BY THE CAPTAIN'S PRESENCE OF MIND AND COURAGE, SIMPLY SAID; "JUST WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

EXPECTED IN SUCH A DISASTER; CAPTAIN HARRISON IS ALWAYS MASTER OF THE SITUATION."

NOW, NO MAN EVER BECAME MASTER OF THE SITUATION BY ACCIDENT OR INDOLENCE. I BELIEVE, WITH SHELLEY, THAT THE ALMIGHTY HAS GIVEN MEN AND WOMEN ARMS LONG ENOUGH TO REACH THE STARS IF THEY WILL ONLY PUT THEM OUT!

IT WAS AN ADMIRABLE SAYING OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, "THAT NO GENERAL EVER BLUNDERED INTO A VICTORY."

ST. HILAIRE SAID, "I IGNORE THE EXISTENCE OF A BLIND CHANCE, ACCIDENT, OR HAPHAZARD RESULTS."

"HE HAPPENED TO SUCCEED" IS A FOOLISH, UNMEANING PHRASE.

NO MAN HAPPENS TO SUCCEED.

"WHAT DO YOU MIX YOUR PAINTS"

WITH,"ASKED A VISITOR OF OPIE,THE PAINTER? "WITH BRAINS,SIR," WAS THE ARTIST'S REPLY.

YOU REMEMBER THE FAMOUS DEBATE BETWEEN LINCON AND DOUGLAS. DOUGLAS HAD A NATIONAL REPUTATION ON THE PLATFORM AS A DEBATER. HE WAS WIDELY KNOWN AS A STATESMEN. HE HAD PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER IN HIM,AND HIS EYES LOOKED TOWARD WASHINGTON. IT SEEMED FOOLHARDY FOR A BACK-WOODS' LAWYER TO GRAPPLE IN SUCH AN ARENA WITH SUCH A MAN,FOR HE WAS A "LITTLE GIANT." BUT WHAT WAS THE CONSEQUENCE? LINCOLN FORCED HIM TO MAKE CERTAIN ADMISSIONS- YOU ~~ALL~~ KNOW THE STORY- WHICH,WHILE HE GAINED THE SENATORSHIP,LOST HIM THE PRESIDENCY. DOUGLAS TRIED TO

STRADDLE THE FENCE, BUT HE WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY CUSHIONED TO MAKE IT COMFORTABLE. LINCOLN ANNOUNCED CERTAIN PRINCIPLES WHICH, WHILE THEY WERE NOT BORN OF POLITICAL ASTUTENESS, SHOWED HIM TO BE A MAN WHO SAW THE TREND OF THINGS, AND KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT. "A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND." "THE COUNTRY CANNOT EXIST HALF-SLAVE AND HALF FREE." AND HE WAS RIGHT, AND MORE THAN THAT, IT SHOWED THAT HE WAS NOT ~~FIGHTING~~ working FOR OR AGAINST SLAVERY, BUT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE UNION. THIS HE AFTERWARDS CLEARLY DEFINED IN HIS LETTER TO HORACE GREELEY.

THE PEOPLE SAW THAT LINCOLN WAS TRYING TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE UNION, TRYING TO SAVE HIS

POLITICAL HOME. And HE WAS MASTER OF THE SITUATION.

LATER ON WE FIND TWO INSTANCES TO ILLUSTRATE THIS MASTERSHIP. THE PRESIDENT HAD CALLED FOR THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS TO COME TO THE FRONT TO PUT A SPEEDY END TO THE WAR. GENERAL MCCLELLAN WAS GIVEN SUPREME COMMAND, BEING A FINE SOLDIER FROM EVERY STANDPOINT. YOU REMEMBER HOW THEY GATHERED IN REVIEW AT WASHINGTON. THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS WERE THERE FROM ALL OVER. IT WAS A BRILLIANT ARRAY. GENERAL MACCLELLAN RODE DOWN THE LINE CHEERED BY THOUSANDS OF ADMIRING FRIENDS. HE RODE LIKE A PRINCE, HE LOOKED LIKE A HERO. HE SEEMED TO BE THE MAN OF THE HOUR, AND THEY HAILED HIM AS

CHIEF. BUT, SOME OLD SOLDIER, AS HE SAW HIM RIDE DOWN THE LINE, QUIETLY SAID TO SOME FRIENDS, "HE LOOKS WELL, BUT HE IS NOT MASTER OF THE SITUATION." AND IN A FEW MONTHS THAT FACT BECAME SADLY TRUE. THE HANDSOME SOLDIER COULD THEORIZE, AND TELL YOU ALL ABOUT MILITARY TACTICS, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO GO INTO BATTLE AND "WINOUT"! HE WAS NOT MASTER OF THE SITUATION.

LATER ON, WHEN GRANT HAD CONQUERED VICKSBURG, AND DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ALL ALONG THE LINE, LINCOLN WANTED HIM TO COMMAND THE WHOLE ARMY. SOME CROAKERS SAID, "MR. LINCOLN, GENERAL GRANT WILL NOT DO; HE DRINKS TOO MUCH WHISKEY." LINCOLN QUIETLY REPLIED, "MY FRIEND, I WISH YOU WOULD FIND

OUT WHAT BRAND OF WHISKEY GENERAL GRANT IS FOND OF; I WANT TO SEND SOME TO MY OTHER GENERALS."

LINCOLN KNEW THAT GRANT WAS MASTER OF THE SITUATION, AND SO WAS LINCOLN. YOU THINK A GREAT MAN DOES NOT KNOW A GREAT MAN WHEN HE SEES HIM!

THAT IS THE REASON THAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN OFFERED ROBERT E. LEE THE COMMAND OF THE UNION FORCES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR, BECAUSE BEING A GREAT MAN HE KNEW A GREAT MAN, AND WE ALL KNOW WHY LEE REFUSED TO COMMAND THE UNION ARMY.

~~NOW THAT WE CAN LOOK BACK UPON THAT AWFUL STRIFE, AND NOTE THAT FAMILIES WERE CUT I HALF BY DIFFERENCE OF POLITICAL~~

WHEN WE NAME THE MEN WHO GATHERED AROUND LINCOLN AS HIS CABINET IN WASHINGTON WE AGREE THAT THEY ALL HAD ELEMENTS OF GREATNESS. SEVERAL OF THEM THOUGHT THEY WERE GREAT ENOUGH TO BE PRESIDENT, AND SHOWED AMBITION IN THAT DIRECTION. IN FACT STANTON, AND CHASE, AND SEWARD DID NOT HESITATE TO TREAT LINCOLN at times, AS IF HIS POLICIES WERE PUERILE. LINCOLN MIGHT HAVE RESENTED ALL THIS, MIGHT HAVE FLOWN INTO A RAGE, AS MANY A MONARCH WOULD- CERTAINLY AS THE GERMAN EMPEROR AND Theodore ROOSEVELT WOULD- BUT NO SIGN EVER ESCAPED OF BITTER ANGER, OR PETTY JEALOUSY. HE LOOKED STRAIGHT AHEAD, AND KEPT HIS EYE ON THE NORTHERN STAR OF HIS COUNTRY'S PEACE AND UNION, AND "SAWED WOOD" IN SILENCE. IF LINCOLN HAD

NOT KNOWN HOW TO KEEP WISELY CALM; IF HE HAD NOT done A TREMENDOUS LOT OF THINKING FOR HIMSELF; IF HE HAD NOT KEPT STEADILY AT HIS WORK, "WITH CHARITY FOR ALL, AND MALICE TOWARD NONE," WASHINGTON CITY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE VILEST HOT-BED OF POLITICAL ANIMOSITY THE WORLD EVER SAW. BUT, THANK GOD, THERE WAS A MAN AT THE HELM WHO KNEW WHAT HE WAS ABOUT, BECAUSE HE HAD THE GOD-GIVEN CONSCIOUSNESS THAT HE ~~WAS~~ must be MASTER OF THE SITUATION. WE ALL KNOW WHAT SUBLIME PATIENCE POSSESSED HIS SOUL, AND GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF IT HAD N'T!

AS WE READ ABOUT THIS BELOVED AND GREAT MAN'S LIFE; AS WE SCAN THOSE SAD FEATURES FOR SOME SIGN OF HIS SECRET, WE COME BACK FOR

THE HUNDREDTH TIME BEWILDERED, AMAZED, AND INSPIRED. HIS GREATNESS HAD A STRANGENESS ABOUT IT, YET A STRANGENESS THAT CARRIED THE ELEMENT OF FASCINATION, FOR NO MAN IN AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE HAS SO GRIPPED THE HEART OF THE NATION.

I KNOW MEN WHO SPEAK OF LINCOLN WITH BATED BREATH, AND A LUMP IN THE THROAT. THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HIM, BUT THEY KNEW THEY COULD LOVE HIM, AND THAT WAS THE ELEMENT THAT MADE HIM RISE HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE HIS GREAT CONTEMPORARIES. AND TO-DAY, AFTER THE LAPSE OF YEARS, NO CHARACTER IN THE HISTORY OF THIS WESTERN LAND, CONTAINS SO MUCH TO INSPIRE LOYALTY FOR THE OLD FLAG, AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THE UNION.

EVEN HIS ENEMIES ARE LEARNING TO CALL HIM "FATHER ABRAHAM", AND "HONEST ABE." THERE WERE THOSE WHO, WITH THE CURL OF THE LIP AND A SCORN BORN OF SELFISH AMBITION, COULD SNEER AT THE TALL, AWKWARD FELLOW FROM THE BACKWOODS, THINKING THAT GREATNESS IS ARISTOCRACY AND REFINEMENT OF MANNERS, BUT THEY LITTLE KNEW THE MIND OF THE NATION when THEY THOUGHT TO OVERTHROW ITS IDOL BY SUCH TOMFOOLERY, FOR "YOU CAN FOOL ALL THE PEOPLE SOME OF THE TIME, YOU CAN FOOL SOME OF THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME, BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL ALL THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME." AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID IT.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT WILLIAM MCKINLEY, THE BELOVED OHIOAN, ALWAYS HAD HIS EAR TO THE GROUND

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE. I THINK WE CAN SAY OF LINCOLN THAT HE HAD HIS EAR AGAINST THE HEART OF THE NATION TRYING TO QUIET ITS WILD THROBBINGS IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND UNION. WE NOW KNOW THAT HIS SYMPATHY FOR THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF THE SOUTH WAS AS GREAT AS THAT FOR THE NORTH, FOR HIS HEART WAS BLEEDING FOR THE WHOLE NATION AS SHE STOOD BEFORE HIM DRIPPING WITH BLOOD.

AND WHY WAS LINCOLN MASTER OF THE SITUATION? BECAUSE, MAINLY, HE WAS MASTER OF HIMSELF.

IN SUCH TIMES AS A CIVIL WAR, MEN'S PASSIONS ARE LET LOOSE. OPINION CLASHES WITH OPINION, AND MEN THINK THEY HAVE A PERFECT RIGHT TO STAND BY THEIR COLORS

FIGHTING TO THE LAST DITCH.

MR. LINCOLN NEVER FOUGHT FOR HIS OPINIONS, BUT FOR SUBLIME PRINCIPLES. DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THAT WONDERFUL DAY AT GETTYSBURGH, WHEN THE MOST PRINCELY ORATOR OF THE NATION HELD A VAST CROWD SPELL-BOUND FOR TWO HOURS WITH HIS ORATORY? IT WAS A FINISHED SPEECH, ADMIRED AS A THING OF BEAUTY, SPOKEN BY A SILVER TONGUE. BUT WHAT WAS THE MATTER WITH IT? IT CONTAINED TOO MUCH POLITICAL RANCOR, AND PARTISAN BITTERNESS. AND WHO HAS EVER CARED TO READ IT?

CAN YOU SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT ANOTHER SHORT SPEECH THAT WAS MADE ON THAT GREAT BATTLE-FIELD AT THE SAME TIME? NO, YOU TEACH IT TO YOUR CHILDREN; YOU STORE IT UP IN YOUR OWN MEMORY, AND WHILE

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ENDURES THAT LITTLE SPEECH "SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH!" AND THE VERY FIRST WORDS ARE LIKE MUSIC FROM THE COURTS OF HEAVEN; "FOURSCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT A new NATION, CONCEIEVED IN LIBERTY, AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEAN ARE CREATED EQUAL."

AND THAT IS THE NATION ~~THAT~~ ABRAHAM LINCOLN LOVED WITH AN UNDYING DEVOTION. HIS ONE THOUGHT SEEMED TO BE;-

"GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND,
FIRM MAY SHE EVER STAND,
THROUGH STORM AND NIGHT;
WHEN THE WILD TEMPESTS RAVE,
RULER OF WIND AND WAVE,
DO THOU OUR COUNTRY SAVE
BY THY GREAT MIGHT."

POVERTY IN THE BACKWOODS WAS THE HOME IN WHICH ~~HE~~ Lincoln FOUND HIS SCHOOLING. BUT THE DIVINE SPARK WAS IN HIM. HE WAS ALWAYS TRUE TO ITS LIGHT. THE POTENTIAL GREATNESS OF MANHOOD WAS HIS INSPIRATION. WE CAN IMAGINE THESE WORDS WRITTEN UPON HIS HEART, "TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE, AND IT MUST FOLLOW, AS THE NIGHT THE DAY, THOU CANST NOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN." THE BOOK OF NATURE, THE BOOK OF HUMAN NATURE, AND A FEW OTHER BOOKS, WERE HIS CONSTANT COMPANIONS. TO THESE SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE HE BROUGHT AN ORIGINAL AN OPEN MIND. THE LESSONS HE LEARNED WERE PROFOUND. HE WAS A DREAMER BUT NOT AN IDLER. TIME WAS PRECIOUS BECAUSE TIME WAS

SHORT. HE BUILT A FENCE AROUND EACH DAY AND HEDGED IT ABOUT WITH SPLENDID VISIONS. TO HIM THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES POINTED WITH A STERN FINGER. HE DISCERNED THE MEANING OF THE ZEITGEIST. LIKE A GOOD SAILOR HE KNEW HOW TO READ HIS COMPASS. BUT, AMID STORM AND SUNSHINE, HE WAS CALM, WISE, AND MASTER OF THE SITUATION.

HE WAS THOROUGH; HE WAS SINCERE, HE WAS FAR-SEEING. HE KNEW WHAT HE WANTED, AND HE GENERALLY KNEW WHAT HIS COUNTRY NEEDED.

THINGS NON-ESSENTIAL SLIPPED THROUGH HIS MIND. HE SAW CLEAR, AND HE THOUGHT STRAIGHT. HE WAS ROBUST WITH CONSCIOUS INTEGRITY.

ALL THE FISH THAT CAME FROM HIS NET WERE GOOD. HE WAS SERIOUS, BUT HIS SERIOUSNESS WAS SWEETENED

BY THE SAVING GRACE OF REAL HUMOR.

HE WAS THUS ENABLED TO SEE THINGS IN THEIR RIGHT PROPORTION.

LIKE JOAN OF ARC HE WAS CONTROLLED AND GUIDED BY AN UNSEEN POWER.

HE LOOKED UP AND NOT DOWN.

HE WAS WINSOME BECAUSE HE WAS MAGNANIMOUS. HE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO STOOP. TRICKERY HAD NO PLACE IN HIS MENTAL MAKE-UP.

WITH ALL HIS GREATNESS HE WAS NEVER AUSTERE, BUT "SWEETNESS AND LIGHT" SHONE FROM HIS WHOLE LIFE.

GREAT MEN MIGHT NOT AGREE WITH HIM, BUT THEY COULD NOT DESPISE HIM. HE ALWAYS WORKED IN THE OPEN. HE WAS A SON OF THE SOIL AND BECAME ONE WITH THE PEOPLE.

WHEN HIS STAR WAS IN THE ASCENDANT, AND THE WORLD TOOK NOTE OF HIS ABILITY, IT SAW A MAN WHO HAD

ACHIEVED GREATNESS. LIKE MOSES HE WAS A MAN OF DESTINY, THE MAN OF THE HOUR, A MAN UPON whom A NATION COULD LEAN. A NATION'S CRISIS FOUND HIM THE NATION'S HERO.

HE ASKED FOR NO LAUREL-WREATH BUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THE RIGHT AS GOD GAVE HIM TO SEE THE RIGHT. HIS WORDS WERE CAUGHT UP AND TREASURED, NOT BECAUSE HE WAS CALLED THE FIRST ORATOR OF THE LAND, BUT BECAUSE HIS FORESIGHT AND WISDOM WERE WEIGHTED WITH SINCERITY OF PURPOSE.

HE DID NOT STRUGGLE IN THE INTERESTS OF PARTY AND MEASURES, BUT FOR PRINCIPLES AND MEN. TO HIM THE GOVERNMENT WAS MADE FOR THE PEOPLE, AND NOT THE PEOPLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. HE MET THE HOUR WITH UPLIFTED VISION, AND GOD GAVE HIM

OF HIS BEST. HIS LIFE, HIS CAREER, AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE PRONOUNCED HIM TO BE NATURE'S NOBLEMAN, AND HIS NAME STANDS IN THE HALL OF FAME; AND, WHILE A GREAT NATION CAN DO HONOR TO ITS IMMORTAL DEAD, IT WILL LOVE AND REVERE THE NAME OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Hunter Davidson